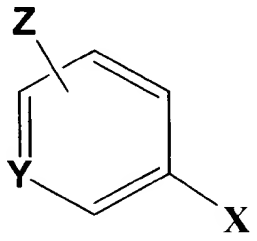
an oligopeptide which comprises at least one positively-charged amino acid residue and at least one D-amino acid residue, wherein the oligopeptide does not comprise two or more contiguous L-amino acids, wherein said oligopeptide is covalently bound to the ligand; wherein the oligopeptide does not specifically bind to the surface antigen; and

a label which is covalently bound to the oligopeptide.

2. (Amended) [A] The composition of claim 1 comprising two non-contiguous L-amino acids, wherein [if the oligopeptide comprises two or more L-amino acids,] the L-amino acids are separated from one another by one or more positively-charged D-amino acids.

3. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the label is a moiety of formula (II):



(II)

wherein X is a moiety selected from the group consisting of an amino, carboxyl, or sulfhydryl moiety, and wherein X forms a covalent linkage with the oligopeptide;

wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of C and N; and

wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of F, Br, I, At, and $M(Alk)_3$; wherein M is selected from the group consisting of Si, Sn, and Hg; wherein Alk is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, and hexyl.